

alter his budget to achieve those savings?

The fiscal commission recommends finding \$600 billion in entitlement savings, but the President's budget would increase entitlement spending by \$905 billion. That is in the budget he submitted already. How does he intend to achieve these savings in entitlements?

The fiscal commission's recommendations would reduce it by \$4 trillion, and the Ryan budget plan would reduce it by \$5 trillion; but the President's budget would increase the debt by \$10 trillion and would not produce any savings. How would the President alter his original budget to reduce the debt by \$4 trillion? I wish to see something more than a speech. Give me a break. I wish to see some numbers so we can discuss it.

Once the President engages, we can have that long overdue national dialog about solving the Nation's fiscal problems. But he has to acknowledge that we have one. As every witness has told us—and the debt commission chairmen, Simpson and Bowles, said this Nation has never faced a more predictable fiscal financial crisis. They see it coming. We have to change.

I hope in his speech the President will discuss entitlements, discuss whether it is good to burden American energy companies with new taxes, discuss whether we should tax small businesses even more, and discuss the military budget. I think a leading President should talk about that. Rather than trying to drain every cent of tax revenue from the American people, Washington should try to drain every cent of waste from the Federal budget.

I hope this doesn't continue the pattern of retreat that is already emerging, where the President supports deficit reduction in theory but resists it in practice, and he claims credit when he is forced to accept reduction. For a President to abdicate his responsibility to lead the effort to meet one of the greatest challenges in our Nation's history would be tantamount to a general leaving the battlefield in a time of war.

I hope we have a speech. I hope it is backed up with real numbers, and I hope and pray it represents a recognition by the President of the United States that we have a serious fiscal challenge before us.

Business as usual cannot continue. Change is necessary. I hope he intends to participate in that and help lead the good change that is necessary.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF VINCENT L. BRICCETTI TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

NOMINATION OF JOHN A. KRONSTADT TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations.

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nominations of Vincent L. Briccetti, of New York, to be U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of New York, and John A. Kronstadt, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. There will now be 1 hour of debate equally divided between the two sides.

The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. KIRK. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak out of turn as in morning business.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Mr. KIRK are printed in today's RECORD under "Morning Business.")

Mr. KIRK. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TESTER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, the Senate will confirm two more of the President's judicial nominees. Both of these nominees are for seats termed "judicial emergencies." My Republican colleagues and I continue to demonstrate our cooperation. We have worked with the Democratic majority in moving consensus nominees through the committee and on to the Senate floor. With today's votes, we will have confirmed 17 judicial nominees in just 39 short days the Senate has been in session this Congress. Twelve of these confirmations were for those positions that are termed "judicial emergencies."

We have reported out of committee a total of 32 judicial nominees. That is 51 percent of the total nominees who have been submitted to the Senate by the

President of the United States. To date we have held five nomination hearings with 21 judicial and executive nominees giving their testimony. We have another hearing scheduled for tomorrow, with four judicial nominees and one executive nominee on the agenda. With this productive pace, we have taken positive action on 60 percent of the judicial nominations sent to the committee this year by the President.

Today the Senate will consider two nominations: First, Vincent Briccetti, nominated to be U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of New York. He received a B.A. from Columbia University and a juris doctorate from Fordham University School of Law. The nominee began his legal career as a law clerk for the Honorable John M. Cannella, U.S. District Court for the Southern District New York.

After a short term in private practice, he served as an assistant U.S. attorney. That was also for the Southern District of New York. Later, he became a deputy chief appellate attorney. After working as an associate attorney in a law firm, the nominee started his own firm in 1992 and, as I report to my colleagues regularly on the ABA standing committee on the Federal judiciary, that committee has unanimously rated this nominee "well-qualified."

The second nominee is John Kronstadt, nominated to be U.S. District Judge, Central District of California. He received his B.A. from Cornell University and juris doctorate from Yale Law School. He began his legal career as law clerk to the Honorable William P. Gray, U.S. District Court, Central District of California. This nominee practiced law for nearly 24 years, most recently as a partner with Arnold & Porter.

On November 14, 2002, Gov. Gray Davis appointed Judge Kronstadt to the Los Angeles County Superior Court. There he presided over criminal, civil, and family law matters. Again, reporting on the American Bar Association rating of this nominee, the nominee had substantial majority "qualified," a minority, "well qualified."

I support these two nominees and urge my colleagues to support them as well. I congratulate each of the nominees for their achievement and, more importantly, for their long period of public service which will continue after their confirmation by the Senate.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I wish to express my strong support for California Superior Court Judge John A. Kronstadt, as the Senate prepares to vote on his confirmation to the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California. Judge Kronstadt was recommended to the President by my colleague, Senator FEINSTEIN, and will be a great addition to the Federal bench.

Judge Kronstadt has had a distinguished career. After graduating from Yale Law School, he served as a Federal law clerk for Judge Gray on the Central District of California. With his